

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTONTECHNICAL NAMES OF THE AFRICAN MUIHOND
(GENUS *ZORILLA*) AND THE COLOMBIAN HOG-
NOSED SKUNK (GENUS *CONEPATUS*)

By PHILIP HERSHKOVITZ

Application of the typical specific name for the Cape Stinkmuishond or Striped Polecat is embroiled with names erroneously applied to neo-tropical hog-nosed skunks. The Cape Stinkmuishond, currently listed as *Ictonyx striatus* Perry (cf. G. M. Allen, Bul. Mus. Comp. Zool., vol. 83, p. 179, 1939) is identical with the *zorille* described and figured by Buffon in 1755 (Hist. Nat., vol. 13, p. 289, 302-303, pl. 41 [misnumbered 29]). Unfortunately, Buffon believed that the animal originated in the New World. This led some authors to compare and even to identify the *zorille* with the South American *mapurito* or *mafutiliqui* mentioned by Gumilla (El Orinoko ilustrado y defendido, vol. 2, p. 276, 1745; Hist. nat., civ. et geogr. l'Orenoque, vol. 8, p. 240, 1758). These blunders were corrected by Cuvier in 1801 (in Azara, Essais Hist. Nat. Quad. Paraguay, French transl., vol. 1, p. 239, footnote a) and in several later works. Cuvier showed that Buffon's *zorille*, which he termed *Viverra zoralla* Linnaeus (Gmelin), is a native of the Cape of Good Hope and not related to any American or European mustelid. This correction was sustained until Lichtenstein laboriously attempted to identify the *zorille* with a representative of the North American genus *Spilogale*! A. H. Howell, in revising the genus (North American Fauna No. 26, p. 11-12, 1906) was inclined to follow suit but prudently rejected the name for any known form of *Spilogale*. The white edged ears and the extensively whitened tail of the *zorille*, clearly figured by Buffon and others (Schreber, Shaw, etc.) are diagnostic of the Cape Stinkmuishond and positively eliminate from consideration all American mustelids.

Of numerous technical names applied to the *zorille* or Cape Stinkmuishond, the earliest, based solely on Buffon's reference, is *Viverra mapurito* Müller, 1776.

It has already been shown (A. H. Howell, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 19, p. 46, 1906; Hershkovitz, in press, Journ. Mamm., vol. 30, 1949)

that Oken's vernacular term "zorille" cannot be used as the generic name for the African polecats. *Ictonyx* Kaup, 1835, proposed as a substitute, is antedated by *Zorilla* I. Geoffroy, 1826 (Dict. Class. Hist. Nat., Paris, vol. 10, p. 215, type by monotypy "Le Zorille, Buff., T. XIII, pl. 41; *Mustela Zorilla* et *Viverra Zorilla* des auteurs systématiques" = *Viverra mapurito* Müller). Originally proposed as a subgenus of *Mustela*, *Zorilla* was raised to generic rank by Cuvier (Dict. Sci. Nat., p. 449, 1829). Accordingly, the scientific name for the zorille or Cape Stinkmuishond, stands as follows, with the partial synonymy included as a supplement to the references given above and by G. M. Allen (*op. cit.*).

Zorilla mapurito Müller

Viverra mapurito Müller, Linn. Syst. Nat., Suppl., p. 32, 1776.

Viverra zorilla Schreber, Säugth., Theil 3, p. 445 (description), pl. 123 (name), 1777.

[*Viverra*] *zorilla* Erxleben, Syst. Reg. Anim., p. 492, 1777. Shaw, General Zoology, vol. 1. pt. 2, p. 391, pl. 94 (top fig.), 1800 (part; ref. to Schreber and Buffon). Gmelin, Linn. Syst. Nat., ed. 13, vol. 1, p. 88, 1788 (part).

[*Viverra*] *zorille* Boddaert, Elenchus Animalium, p. 84, 1784.

Mustela zorilla, Lacépède, Buffon Hist. Nat., ed. Didot, vol. 13, p. 163, 1799. Desmarest, Mammalogie, p. 181, Atlas pl. 86, fig. 4, 1820 [1821].

Ictonyx striatus striatus, G. M. Allen, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., vol. 83, p. 179, 1939 (synonymy).

Type locality.—None given in original description; determined by Cuvier, *sup. cit.*) as Cape of Good Hope, South Africa.

The named forms of the species include: *Zorilla mapurito albescens* Heller, *Z. m. elgonis* Granvik, *Z. m. erythrae* De Winton, *Z. m. intermedius* Anderson and De Winton, *Z. m. lancasteri* Roberts, *Z. m. maximus* Roberts, *Z. m. obscuratus* de Beaux, *Z. m. pondoensis* Roberts, *Z. m. senegalensis* Fischer, *Z. m. shoae* Thomas, *Z. m. sudanicus* Thomas and Hinton.

Shortridge (The Mammals of South West Africa, vol. 1, p. 197, 1934), regards *limpopoensis* Roberts and *shortridgei* Roberts as identical with the typical form.

The Colombian Hog-Nosed Skunk

Notwithstanding published allegations to the contrary, the only basis for the name *Viverra mapurito* Gmelin, is a Colombian and not a Mexican hog-nosed skunk. This name, as shown above, is preoccupied and cannot be used for any New World mustelid. The first scientific description of the Colombian hog-nosed skunk is due to the celebrated naturalist and eminent botanist, José Celestino Mutis. This scholar, born in 1732, in Cadiz, Spain, sailed for Cartagena, Colombia, in 1760. Until his death in Bogotá, in the year 1808, Mutis devoted himself to the study of the natural phenomena of Colombia. It was during a four year expedition to Las Minas de Mantuosa, near Pamplona, Norte de Santander, Colombia, that Mutis discovered the animal in question. A complete description of the skunk under the misnomer "*Viverra putorius*," was addressed October 6, 1767 to a Swedish friend, Alströmer, who secured its publication in 1770 (Kongl. Vetenskap. Acad. Handl., Stockholm,

vol. 31, p. 67-77). In 1771, Linnaeus included in the *Mantissa* (2, p. 522) a Latin summary of the original description still under the name "*Viverra putorius*." Schreber (*Säugeth.*, Theil 3, heft 26, p. 445-6, 1777) gave a German translation of the description and introduced the Spanish vernacular name *mapurito*. Schreber continued the use of the misnomer "*Viverra putorius*," however, and, through a *lapsus*, assigned both the type locality, Pamplona, and the residence of Mutis, Sante Fé (= Bogotá), to "Mexico." In 1784, Boddaert (*Elenchus Animalium*, p. 84) disengaged Mutis' skunk from the synonymy of *Viverra putorius* Linnaeus, a *Spilogale*, and designated it *Viverra semistriata*. Unhappily, this author carelessly followed Schreber in citing "Mexico" as the habitat. The same error was repeated later by Gmelin (*Linn. Syst. Nat.*, ed. 13, vol. 1, p. 88, 1788) who proposed the preoccupied name *Viverra mapurito* as a substitute for "*Viverra putorius* Mutis." Humboldt (*Rec. Obs. Zool. Anat. Comp.*, vol. 1, p. 350, 1811 [1812] who with Bonpland (*vide Ann. Mus. Hist. Nat.*, Paris, vol. 4, p. 476-477, 1804) became acquainted with Mutis and his collections in Bogotá, recognized and redefined the Colombian skunk under the name *Viverra mapurito* Gmelin. At the same time, Humboldt reasserted the Colombian origin of the type specimen and recorded additional Colombian (*Fusugasugá*; Santa Fé de Bogotá) and Ecuadorian (*Loja*) localities for the species. Another specimen from Quito, Ecuador, was regarded as distinct and named *Gulo quitensis*.

The foregoing historical facts are summarized in the following synonymy. A few collateral references are included for dissipating any confusion still remaining in certain quarters.

Coneptaus semistriatus Boddaert

- Viverra putorius* Mutis (*nec* Linnaeus, 1758) *Kongl. Vetenskap. Acad. Handl.*, Sweden, vol. 31, p. 66-67, 1770. Linnaeus, *Mantissa*, 2 appendix p. 522, 1771. Müller, *Linn. Syst. Nat.*, Suppl., p. 31, 1776. Schreber, *Säugeth.*, Theil 3, heft 26, p. 445-446, 1777 ("Der Mapurito," Mexico!).
- [*Viverra*] *semistriata* Boddaert, *Elenchus Animalium*, p. 84, 1784 [1785] (based solely on reference to Mutis, 1769 [1770]).
- [*Viverra*] *mapurito* Gmelin (*nec* Müller, 1776), *Linn. Syst. Nat.*, ed. 13, vol. 1, p. 88, 1788 (based solely on reference to Mutis).
- M[ephantis]* *mapurito*, Lichtenstein, *Abh. k. Akad. Wiss. Berlin, phys. Kl.*, 1836, p. 270, 1838 (Colombia).
- [*Viverra*] *conepatl* Gmelin, *Linn. Syst. Nat.*, ed. 13, vol. 1, p. 88, 1788 (based solely on "conepatl . . . Hernand[ez], Mex[ico], p. 232," 1651).
- Gulo quitensis* Humboldt, *Rec. Obs. Zool. Anat. Comp.*, vol. 1, p. 347, 1811 [1812] (type locality, Quito, Ecuador).
- Mephitis zorilla* Fischer, *Synopsis Mammalium*, p. 162, 1829 (based solely on the "mapurito" of Gumilla; type locality, Río Orinoco, Venezuela).
- M[ephantis]* *gumillae* Lichtenstein, *Abh. k. Akad. Wiss. Berlin, phys. Kl.*, 1836, p. 276, 1838 (based solely on reference to the "mapurito" of Gumilla; name antedated by *zorilla* Fischer).
- M[ephantis]* *amazonica* Lichtenstein, *Abh. k. Akad. Wiss. Berlin, phys. Kl.*, 1836, p. 275, 1838 (type locality, Rio Amazonas; collected by Mawe, British Museum).

16 *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington*

Conepatus semistriatus, A. H. Howell, Proc. Biol. Soc., Washington, vol. 19, p. 45, 1906. Cabrera and Yepes, Mamíferos sud-americanos, Historia Natural Ediar, p. 154, 1940 (Colombia and Venezuela).

Type locality.—Las Minas de Mantuosa, near Pamplona, Norte de Santander, Colombia.